

REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to examination on the merits.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19 are independent. Claims 1, 3-9, 12-14, 16-21 have been rejected. Claims 2, 10, 11 and 15 have been objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19 are herein amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-14, 16-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,895 to Nishino ("Nishino") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,434,637 to Ohta ("Ohta").

The Examiner indicates that Nishino teaches each and every element of the pending claims except for the use of interchangeable lens barrels and method of driving the different lens system with normalized speed and position data. Ohta is cited as disclosing the use of normalized speed in controlling the exchangeable autofocus lens barrels.

Independent claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 specifically recites, among other things, that the determination circuit determines the driving speed based on "position data that represents the movable range with a predetermined normalized value, speed data represented in accordance with a normalized speed changing ratio within the predetermined normalized value." Amended claims 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19 also recite similar features to claim 1 as described above. Support for the amendment

may be found, for example, at line 15 of page 14 through line 13 of page 16 of the original specification.

Thus, the independent claims are directed to a determination circuit (i.e., a speed control circuit) of a moving member that utilizes both: (1) the position data that represents the movable range with a predetermined normalized value; and (2) speed data represented in accordance with a normalized speed changing ratio within the predetermined normalized value. This enables a user to control the speed changing ratio (i.e., a speed control resolution) depending on the different types of applications (e.g., a TV camera lens). See, for example, lines 16-22 of page 15 of the original specification.

In contrast, Ohta's control method is based on comparison results between stored control data and read control data from an apparatus. Ohta's method further determines whether the control data read from the apparatus is normal or abnormal, and the data storage and updating are prohibited when the control data from the apparatus is determined to be abnormal.

However, neither Nishino nor Ohta teaches that the control is based on the predetermined normalized position data and a normalized speed changing ratio as specifically recited in amended independent claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that each of independent claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 13 and 19 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Nishino and Ohta, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which those claims respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Claims 2, 10, 11 and 15 have been objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Applicant respectfully submits that, as the independent claims from which the objected claims depend are hereby placed in condition for allowance, these claims as pending are thereby also placed in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

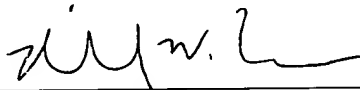
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4600). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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